

Strategies on the Road to Zero Waste

Teton County Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling
ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2019





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Photography by Carson Meyer Photography
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What is Zero Waste?

Zero Waste is a universal term that means to send nothing to the landfill. Jackson Hole is one of over fifty communities nation-wide and many more around the world that have adopted the principle of zero waste as a way to conserve resources, save money, create jobs, and sustain the health of the environment. Locally, the pursuit of zero waste means committing to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost as much as possible and limit the amount of material disposed of through waste-to-energy and landfill.

The Road to Zero Waste is the name of the initiative undertaken by Teton County Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling (ISWR) to provide and coordinate strategies to reduce waste. Currently, Teton County is able to divert, or keep out of the landfill, 33% of discards. A resolution, approved in 2014 by Teton County Commissioners and the Town of Jackson, calls for 60% diversion by the year 2030.

What does future recycling look like in Teton County?

While the recycling markets appear grim, Teton County ISWR currently plans to:

- Continue to strive to reach a diversion rate of 60% by the year 2030, surpassing the national average and joining the leading zero waste communities in the Rocky Mountain West and the nation;
- Continue to recycle as much possible and encourage diversion in other ways;
- Increase composting diversion through Teton County's municipal composting program;
- Rely on business leaders to provide models to pave the way for more organizations to incorporate sustainable practices;
- Encourage and provide a model for Zero Waste construction and demolition- one of the most critical sectors to on-board to ensure 60% diversion by 2030 is met.



Dana removing contamination by hand from a load of cardboard.

2019 Summary

Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

In January of 2019, the Town of Jackson Town Council unanimously voted in favor of implementing a plastic bag reduction ordinance. Large retailers within the Town of Jackson were required to comply by April 15 and small retailers by November 1. Within less than a year, more than 5 million single-use shopping bags were removed from our community. The ordinance states that for each paper bag or 4+mil plastic bag purchased, \$.20 must be applied. Of that, \$.10 stays with the business and the other \$.10 is remitted to the Town of Jackson on a quarterly basis.

Once quarterly remittance is made, the Town of Jackson passes those funds on to ISWR to support ongoing plastic bag reduction education and outreach. At the end of the first quarter since implementation, just over \$11,500 was remitted from large retailers alone. \$21,000 was remitted by the end of the second quarter. These funds are used to purchase reusable bags for the community, fund advertising reminders on the radio, in print and in movie theaters, purchase banners and other signage, and to create and print resources for retailers. To date more than 30,000 free reusable bags have been handed out to members of the community.



Volunteers distributing reusable bags at the Whole Grocer.

Feedback from both businesses and the community have been overwhelmingly positive. Businesses are reporting positive interactions with their customers about the ordinance while also saving money by not providing bags to every customer for free. Anecdotal stories trickle in about visitors commenting on how they wish their communities would do the same.



Steaming compost at WyoFarm Composting.

Third Year of Food Waste Pilot Program

The third and final year of the food waste collection and composting pilot was a resounding success. 247 tons of food waste was collected from 7 sites, exceeding the goal of 200 tons for the season. A 5-10% contamination level was reported for the 2019 season, slightly less than the previous season. Food waste was taken to WyoFarm Composting in Thayne, Wyoming to be composted.

The pilot program came to a close in fall of 2019 as ISWR prepares for municipal food waste collection and composting in spring/summer 2020. Lessons learned from three seasons of the pilot program have taught ISWR how to efficiently collect food waste and educate businesses on proper food waste collection practices. In May and June of 2019, students from the Haub School from the University of Wyoming created resources for ISWR to use with early adopters in the food waste composting program.

Spring Clean Up 2019

Spring Clean Up in May of 2019 diverted 103 tons of yard waste from the landfill. In typical Spring Clean Up fashion, the Town of Jackson offered street side pickup to Town of Jackson residents. Free disposal of residential yard waste was available for one week at the Trash Transfer Station.

Fall Clean Up and Pumpkin Smash 2019

During Fall Clean Up in 2019, 114 tons of yard waste were diverted from the landfill. Free disposal of yard waste was available to the community for two weeks at the Trash Transfer Station, and for one day at the Rodeo Grounds.

The Pumpkin Smash allowed residents to bring Halloween pumpkins to the Rodeo Grounds to be composted with yard waste instead of sent to the landfill. Jackson Hole Fire/EMS volunteers brought the fun by taking loads of pumpkins up in their fire engine basket and tossing them onto obstacles below.

SPET 2019

A Specific Purpose Excise Tax vote was held in November of 2019. The Road to Zero Waste's infrastructure proposition included an outdoor, covered residential recycling area, a sort system for the Recycling Center, sorting equipment for the food waste composting facility, and a truck scale

at the Recycling Center. The Road to Zero Waste proposition passed ensuring \$2.5 million to support necessary infrastructure improvements to reach the 60% waste diversion from landfill by the 2030 goal.



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS volunteers after the Pumpkin Smash, 2019.

Completion of a Bale Storage Facility

Construction on a bale storage facility was completed in summer of 2019. Located adjacent to the existing Recycling Center (see cover photo), this facility has opened up floor space on the Center's warehouse floor. Not only has this allowed for more storage, but also increased safety for Recycling Center employees.



Ribbon cutting at the new Trash Transfer Station.

Completion of New Trash Transfer Station

In October of 2019 the new Trash Transfer Station was completed and move-in ready. The completion of this project allows for increased safety for employees, waste haulers and the community. The new Transfer Station has increased room and lanes of traffic for waste haulers to use, and a safer area for the community to use. The completion of the Transfer Station allows for the interim Transfer Station to be retrofitted to become the future Food Waste Composting Facility.

Landfill Capping

Final capping of the Horsethief Canyon Landfill began in 2019. Over 800,000 cubic yards of waste were relocated up canyon. After the waste mass was graded, a sand layer and methane venting system were installed. An impermeable layer was placed over the sand layer, followed by structural fill and soil. Compost from Teton County's green waste diversion program was incorporated in the capping process. The cap will be seeded and completed in 2020.



Progress on laying the impermeable layer.

Diversion

In 2019, 45,545.8 tons of waste were generated in Teton County. Of that, 13,281 tons of material were diverted from the landfill through reuse, recycling, and composting. Diverted tonnages have remained relatively flat for the last several years. However, we have seen a 200 ton increase in both cardboard and glass recycling from FY18 to FY19. Untold tons are being spared from the landfill through refusal, reduction, and reuse by others in the community. The passing of the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance alone has spared millions of single-use plastic bags from entering the waste stream.

Historically a yearly diversion rate is reported through ISWR. While a yearly diversion rate is reflective of what happened that year, it doesn't take into account the community as a whole. For example, the summer of 2019 saw record tonnages of trash at the Trash Transfer Station. This doesn't mean that our community has just given up; rather, that it was a record summer for construction and demolition. Though frequent construction and demolition is commonplace in our community, one especially high season could reduce the year's diversion rate by nearly 2 percentage points. Instead, a 5-year diversion rate is a more accurate reflection of diversion in our community. Yearly diversion rates are available as needed.



Metal is infinitely recyclable- please always recycle aluminum and tin!

33.2%

WASTE DIVERSION
FROM LANDFILL
FY2015-FY2019

REDUCED

5 million+ fewer single-use plastic bags in our community and waste stream.

TONS REUSED

133.14

+8.75 tons from FY18

TONS RECYCLED

4,529.86

+351 tons from FY18

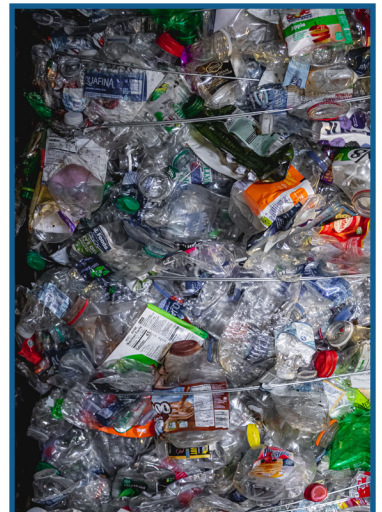
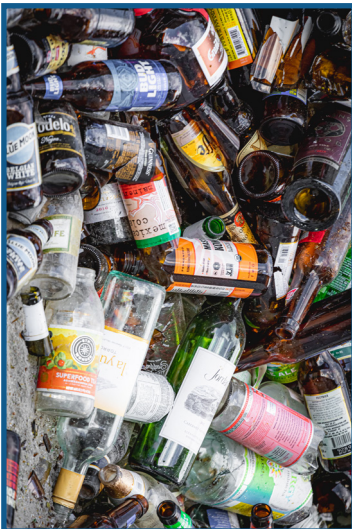
8,618.5

- 445 tons from FY18

TONS COMPOSTED

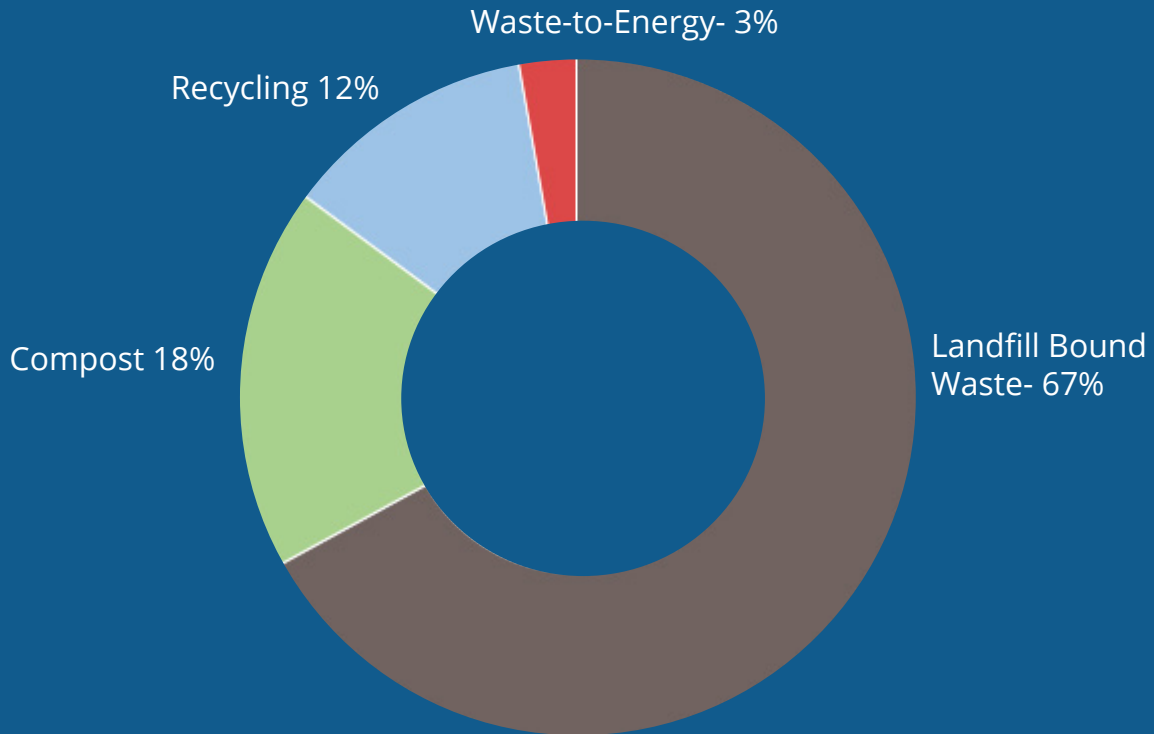


4,529.86 TONS
RECYCLED IN FY2019

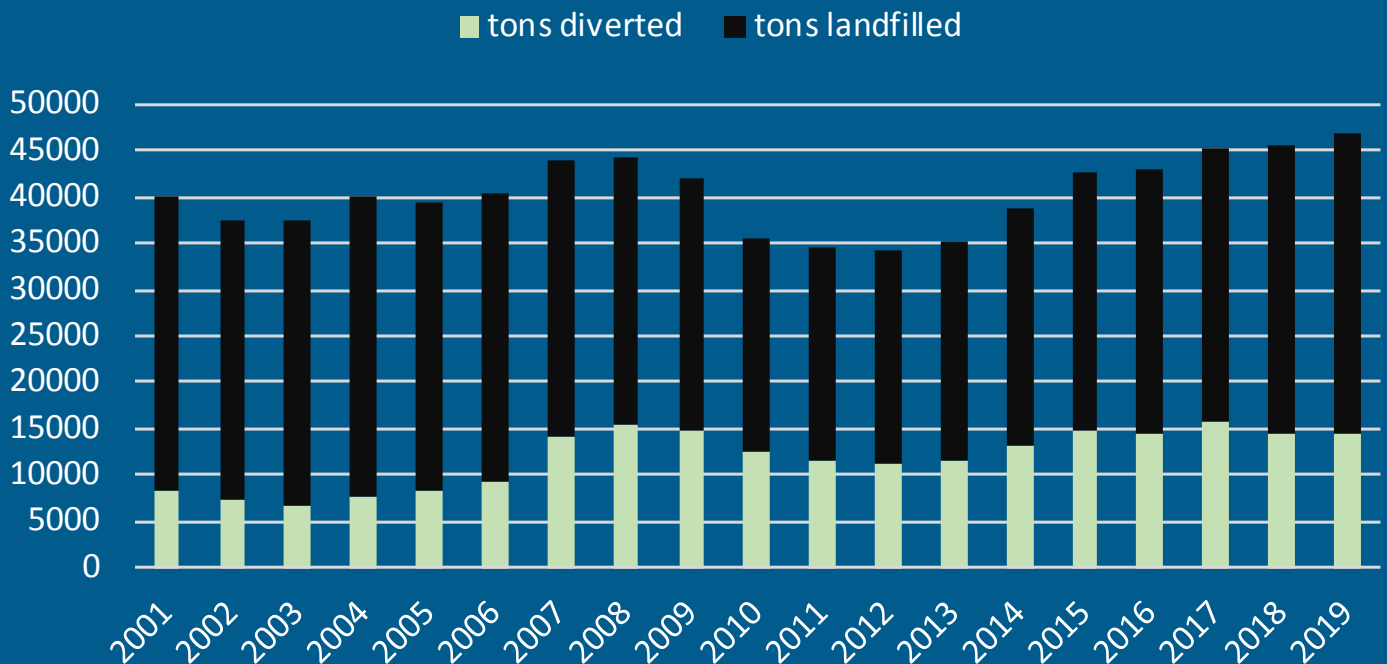


Diversion Stats

Diversion Rate Profile, FY15-FY19



Diversion vs. Landfill Bound Tons



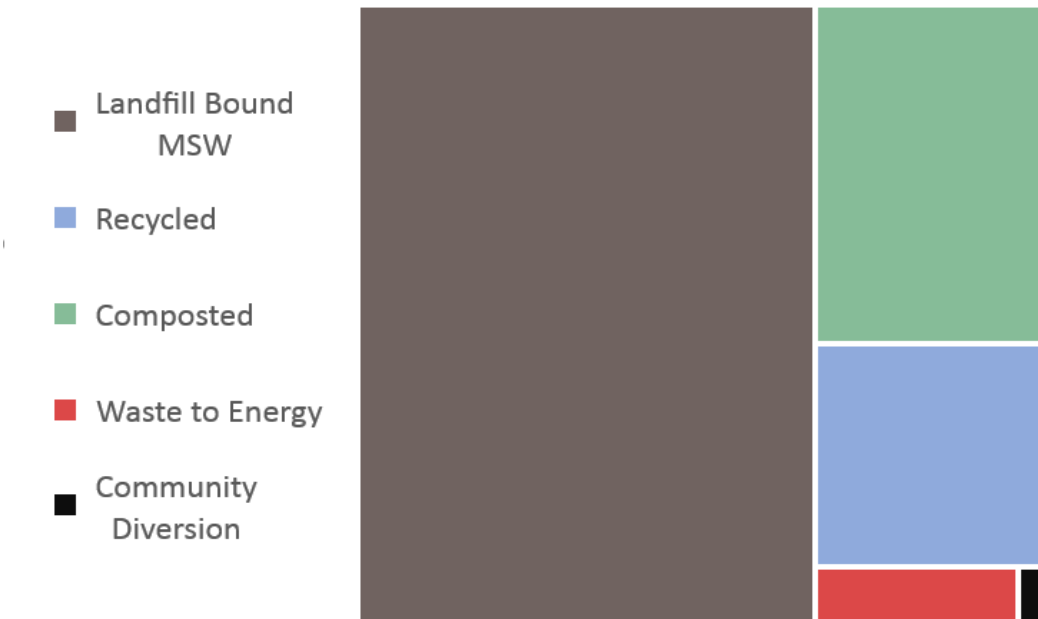
Community Diversion

2019 was a year for reviewing our diversion rate and how to most accurately tell Teton County's diversion rate story. There was a noted lack of acknowledgment for the community's waste diversion efforts in ISWR's usual reporting.

<u>Community Diversion Partner</u>	<u>Reported Pounds</u>
Habitat for Humanity ReStore	625,000
Jackson Cupboard	81,599
St. John's Health	60,520
Hole Food Rescue	255,203
Montessori School	260
WyoFarm Composting	410,200

To account for community diversion, a call for responses was sent out in November of 2019. Any practice, other than recycling, that comes through ISWR's program was included in this new section. In total, 11 businesses and non-profits reached out with either their reduce/reuse data or story. The self-reported data from these 11 businesses and non-profits that responded totaled 716.4 additional tons diverted from the landfill. This does not include the incalculable amount coming from practices such as refuse, reduce and reuse.

Diversion vs. Landfill Bound Trash, Including Community Diversion



While the community diversion graph above doesn't look significant, 716.4 tons, or 1,432,782 pounds absolutely is. The reality is that the practices of refuse, reduce, and reuse are hard to quantify. The following page highlights our Community Diversion Partner's efforts.

The Whole Grocer reuses cardboard by making them available at checkout. **"Customers love the option to put their groceries in a box. A lot of them also bring the boxes back and reuse them again and again,"** says Bruce Rosenberg. The Whole Grocer also utilizes food waste composting via WyoFarm Composting.

Haagen Dazs **composts food waste** with WyoFarm Composting.

EcoTour Adventures **composts food waste** with WyoFarm Composting.

Healthy Being Cafe & Juicery offers **reusable lunch boxes for rent for takeout orders**; reusable glass containers for all juices/almond milks/wellness shots; sells a variety of reusable tote bags, bottle coolers, food wraps and reusable produce bags, stainless straws and more; offers a customer cup discount for all beverages; selects vendors who choose sustainable shipping materials and share sustainability values; composts all food/juice waste with WyoFarm Compost; purchases only recycled or compostable paper and plastic takeout products, donate or sell anything no longer in use.

Teton County Weed and Pest switched to reusable towels in bathrooms; **has a book exchange in their conference room to share and then collect/donate to the library**; donates food and goods left behind by seasonal staff when they move out of their housing units; volunteers vehicles to help the Jackson Cupboard once a week during offseason; and re-purposes old iPhones for use in GIS/Mapping program when possible.

Montessori School of the Tetons has a worm bin that composts about 3-5 lbs of fruit, vegetable and newspaper scraps each week; uses bar rags instead of paper towels for cleaning, which saves approximately 2- 3 large rolls of paper towels each week; uses cloth napkins and small porcelain plates for snacks; cups are all glass; toilet paper rolls are turned into art projects; and requested that children's lunches come in compartmented lunch boxes to reduce plastic sandwich bag use. **"The reduction in plastic sandwich bag use is amazing- we used to have to bring at least one grocery bag full to recycle every week and now are seeing only one or two plastic bags a month,"** Dee Buckstaff.

Bentwood Inn utilizes waste reduction initiatives like **reducing all single use and non-recyclable products**; in-house and out-source composting; and weighing and tracking waste metrics.

Hole Food Rescue, in addition to 255,203 pounds of saved food, **also reused bottle caps to create art work for their office.**

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore diverted 625,000 pounds from the landfill; started **selling packing material for reuse**; recycled over 700 pairs of jeans to be turned into insulation for local homes. Habitat for Humanity continues to operate the only Zero Waste Construction Site in Teton County.

Jackson Cupboard collected and diverted 81,599 pounds of food from the landfill. **"We don't waste anything!"** Rachel Daluge, Operations Director.

St. John's Health has their batteries and ink/toner cartridges recycled via take-back programs; **gives cooking oil to a local person to fuel a car**; donates linens and rags to vet clinics; confidential paper which is shredded and recycled in Idaho; donates used medical devices, and unused medical supplies to third world countries; and composts food waste with Wyofarm Composting.

Hatch Taqueria and Tequilas composts with WyoFarm Composting and **no longer provides plastic straws.**

Central Wyoming College has the ESL program pick up food from Hole Food Rescue twice a week and redistributes to students in need; the culinary arts program uses washable "bar mop" towels, buys in bulk with less packaging, donates food to Good Samaritan Mission and buys local as much as they can; uses recycled paper in their copier machine; **any CWC hosted event or reception uses glass jam jars and bamboo utensils.**



- 1% for the Tetons
- A touch of class
- ACE Hardware
- Akasha Yoga
- Alpenhof Lodge
- Altamira Fine Art
- Alternative Building Solutions LLC
- Amangani
- Barker-Ewing River Trips
- Belle Eco
- Bentwood Inn
- Big-D Signature
- Blue Spruce Cleaners
- Bon Appe Thai
- Boreal Property Management
- Browse 'N Buy
- Buckrail
- Cafe Genevieve
- Carney Logan Burke Architects
- Center For the Arts
- Central Wyoming College
- Changes Hair Salon
- Clearview Strategies, Inc
- Community Entry Services
- Community Foundation of Jackson Hole
- Cowboy Coffee Co.
- Crazy Horse
- Current LLC
- Dornan's
- EcoTour Adventures
- Elk Refuge Inn
- Esteam Architecture, LLC
- Extherid Biosciences
- Fall River Electric Cooperative
- Flat Creek Ranch
- First Interstate Bank
- Four Seasons Resort and Residences Jackson Hole
- Friends of Pathways
- Frontier Landscape Maintenance
- General Laundry
- Glorietta's
- Goosewing Ranch
- Grand Targhee Resort
- Grand Teton Association
- Grand Teton Lodge Company
- Haagen-Dazs

- Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area
- Hatch Taqueria and Tequilas
- Hawtin Jorgensen Architects
- Healthy Being Juicery
- Heather James Fine Art
- Hidden Hollow, LLC
- Hole Food Rescue
- Hotel Jackson
- Hotel Terra
- Huidekoper Ranch
- Hungry Jack's
- Inn at Jackson Hole
- Inn on the Creek
- InterConnections 21
- Jackson Cupboard
- Jackson Curbside Recycling
- Jackson Hole Airport
- Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce
- Jackson Hole Childrens Museum
- Jackson Hole Community Housing Trust
- Jackson Hole Community Radio (KHOL)
- Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
- Jackson Hole Insurance Services
- Jackson Hole Land Trust
- Jackson Hole Lodge
- Jackson Hole Mountain Resort F&B
- Jackson Hole Mountain Resort OPS
- Jackson Hole News&Guide / Jackson Hole Daily
- Jackson Hole Pop
- Jackson Hole Real Estate Associates
- Jackson Hole Still Works
- Jackson Hole Wild
- Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris
- Jackson Whole Grocer
- Jedediah's at the Airport
- Jenny Lake Boating
- JH Compunet
- Jtec, Inc.
- Kilmain Painting
- Lexington at Jackson Hole Hotel & Suites
- Local Restaurant and Bar
- Lucky's Market
- Million Dollar Cowboy Steakhouse
- Montessori School of the Tetons
- National Museum of Wildlife Art
- Native
- New West Knife Works
- Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative
- NoSo Patches
- Orvis Jackson Hole
- O'Ryan Cleaners
- Painted Buffalo Inn
- Penny Lane Cooperative
- Persephone Bakery
- Pet Place Plus
- Picas Mexican Taqueria
- Picnic
- Pizzeria Caldera
- Premier Green Cleaning Services LLC
- Quiznos Sub
- RAD Recycling

- Red Rock Ranch
- Rendezvous River Sports
- Riverwind Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Bank
- Rustic Inn Creekside Resort and Spa
- Signal Mountain Lodge
- Signal Mountain Lodge Restaurants (Trapper Grill, Peaks Restaurant, Deadman's Bar, Leek's Pizzeria, Skillet Staff Dining)
- Silver Star Communications
- Skinny Skis
- Slow Food in the Tetons
- Snake River Anglers
- Snake River Brewery
- Snake River Grill
- Snow King Mountain Resort
- Spring Creek Animal Hospital
- Springhill Suites Marriott Jackson Hole
- St. John's Medical Center
- Stio Mountain Studio
- Straw Free Jackson Hole
- Sweet Cheeks Meats
- Terra Firma Organics
- Teton Backcountry Rentals
- Teton Barber Shop
- Teton Conservation District
- Teton County
- Teton County ISWR
- Teton County Library
- Teton County Search and Rescue Foundation
- Teton County Weed & Pest District
- Teton Gravity Research
- Teton Motors, Inc.
- Teton Mountain Lodge & Spa
- Teton Mountaineering
- Teton Outdoor Adventures
- Teton Pines Country Club
- Teton Raptor Center
- Teton Science Schools
- Teton Tailoring & Haberdashery/ JH Sewing Store
- Teton Technology Solutions
- Teton Toys
- Teton Valley Community Recycling
- The Alpine House Lodge & Cottages
- The Liguor Store of Jackson Hole, Inc
- The Wort Hotel
- Togwotee Mountain Lodge
- Town of Jackson
- Trail Creek Ranch
- TravelStorysGPS
- Trio
- Turner Fine Art
- Turpin Meadow Ranch
- Valley Bookstore
- Vertical Harvest
- Westbank Sanitation
- Wheel Wranglers
- Wyoming Karate Club, Inc.
- WyoFarms
- Xanterra Parks & Resorts in Yellowstone
- Xtropy Web Marketing, LLC
- Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities